

VISIT...

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

What Is a Poem?

by Faith St. James • illustrated by Wallace Keller



Number of Words: 69

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What Is a Poem?

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Strategy Focus

Monitor your understanding as you read. Reread and look at the illustrations to **clarify** what you don't understand.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

Key Vocabulary

describe to use words to tell about something

imagine to picture something in your mind

rhyme words that have the same ending sound

rhythm a pattern of beats, like beats in music

stanza a group of lines in a poem that go together

Word Teaser

Fish and *dish* are words that _____.



A poem can tell a story.
What else is there to know?



A poem can have words that rhyme.



It can have words like *snow* and *go*.



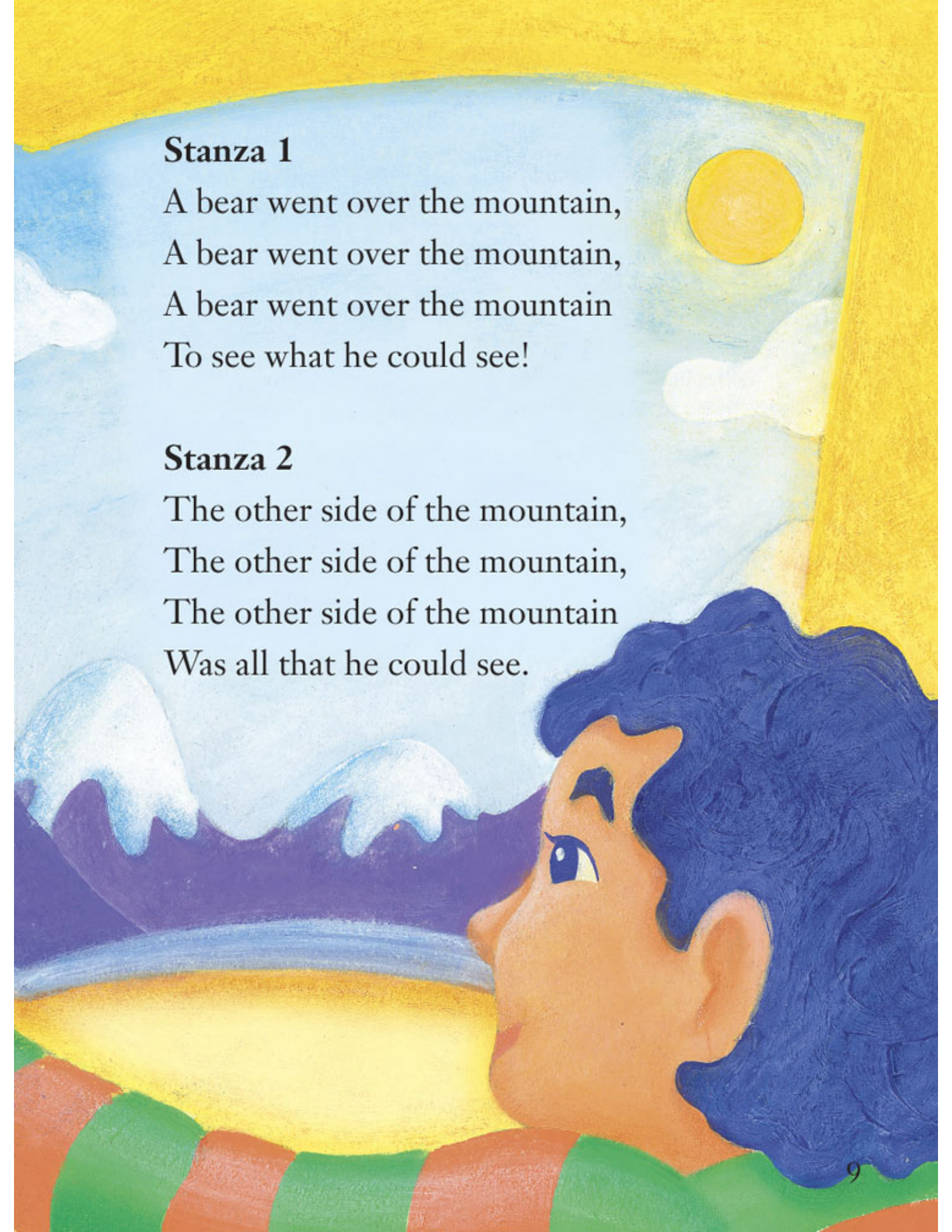
A poem can have a **rhythm**.



It can beat fast or slow.



A poem can have some stanzas.
Words line up row by row.

A colorful illustration of a young child with dark, curly hair, seen from the side, looking out over a landscape. The child is wearing a green and orange striped shirt. In the background, there are purple mountains with white snow-capped peaks. A vibrant rainbow arches across the middle ground. The sky is a pale blue with a large, bright yellow sun in the upper right corner. The overall style is painterly and whimsical.

Stanza 1

A bear went over the mountain,
A bear went over the mountain,
A bear went over the mountain
To see what he could see!

Stanza 2

The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain
Was all that he could see.



A poem can describe how
flowers start to grow.



A poem helps you **imagine**
places you can go!

Responding

Putting Words to Work

1. I like a poem that has **rhythm** because _____.
2. Look at page 8. Is that a place you **imagine** you would like to go? Why?
3. Name two words that **rhyme**.
4. **Describe** something on the wall of your classroom.
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Choose a Key Vocabulary word you learned in the book. Tell your partner what the word means and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser

rhyme

Word Builder

Eye and *fly* are words that **rhyme**. What other words rhyme with *eye*? Make a chart. Add other words that **rhyme** to the chart.

Words that rhyme with eye
fly

Write About It

Write a short poem about one of the words in the chart. Use at least one other word from the chart in your poem.

Key Vocabulary

describe

imagine

rhyme

rhythm

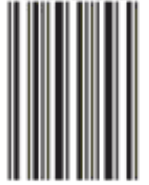
stanza

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